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December 4, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
219 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
219 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Duty Suspension Bill S. 2086

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), thank you for the opportunity to comment on recently introduced duty suspension legislation. On behalf of our member companies, RILA is writing in support of S. 2086, legislation introduced by Senator Amy Klobuchar to suspend duties on certain mini component stereo systems through the end of 2011. RILA encourages the Senate Finance Committee to include S. 2086 in its miscellaneous tariff bill because it meets the requirements set forth by the Committee for inclusion.

By way of background, RILA promotes consumer choice and economic freedom through public policy and industry operational excellence. Our members include the largest and fastest growing companies in the retail industry--retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers--which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales. RILA members provide millions of jobs and operate more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad.

S. 2086 addresses certain mini component stereos currently imported under tariff heading 8527.91.5000, which face a duty of 2.5% and unnecessarily raise the cost of the product to consumers. To the best of RILA's knowledge, there is currently no domestic production of these items, suspension of the duty is considered noncontroversial, and it would meet the Committee's financial requirements.

RILA therefore encourages the Committee to include S. 2086 in the miscellaneous tariff bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue. Should you need any further information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (703) 600-2046 or by email at stephanie.lester@rila.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Lester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Stephanie Lester
Vice President, International Trade